

DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION

Office of Equality Assurance
City of San José . Public Works Department
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, California

MINUTES

March 10, 2008

Commissioners Present

Mary Brown
Susan Espinoza
Emma Eljas
Erik Kaeding
Kevin Lichtenberg
Jackie O'Donnell
Otila Salazar
Susie Souza
Aaron Morrow (Commissioner Emeritus)
Karl Vidt (Commissioner Emeritus)

Commissioners Absent

Anette Howell
Jeffrey Lewis
Richard Kohl (Senior Commission Liaison)

Council Liaison Present

Stephanie Holm for Councilmember Pyle

Staff Present

Steve Wing, ADA Coordinator
Amanda Lei, DOT

1. Call to Order

Chair Espinoza called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. Orders of the Day & Agenda Approval

Upon the motion of Commissioner O'Donnell, seconded by Commissioner Salazar, the Orders of the Day and Agenda were approved unanimously.

3. Approval of February 11, 2008 Minutes

Upon the motion of Commissioner O'Donnell, seconded by Commissioner Eljas, the Minutes as presented were approved unanimously.

4. Open Forum

The Commission recognized and thanked former Commission staff person, Sheila Tucker, for her much appreciated efforts.

Commissioner Emeritus Morrow reported that he attended a community meeting that provided information on the status of the Library Bond projects and Parks Bond projects. An update concerning SNI projects was also provided.

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5. Council Liaison Report

Stephanie Holm reported on items that may be of interest to the DAC, including, 1) the Mayor's Budget Message was released last Friday and it is available online on the Mayor's website; 2) Councilmember Pyle is planning to conduct an online survey of residents to get a better idea of what they think are the most important City issues. Hard copy surveys will be available also and they will do outreach to publicize the survey; 3) The City Council will be reviewing the City's Traffic Calming policy at their meeting on March 18th.

6. Chairperson Report – Susan Espinoza

Chair Espinoza provided information on the following issues and upcoming meetings: 1) The second meeting of Vulnerable Populations Sheltering Plan development group is on March 18, 2008, 10 to 12; 2) on April 4, there will be a meeting concerning special education with Assemblymember Jim Beall; 3) she met with the Greenprint subcommittee; 4) the OTS Strategic Plan Advisory Group would like a DAC representative. Please let the Chair know if you are interested; 5) Councilmember meetings should be arranged between each commissioner and their council representative. Commissioners who live in the same council district should try to coordinate their meetings together. Check with Steve Wing for a briefing packet.; 6) Annual Roundtable meeting will be scheduled for the May meeting.

7. Santa Clara County Advisory Commission For People With Disabilities Liaison Report – Aaron Morrow

No report.

8. Senior Commission Liaison Report – Richard Kohl

No report.

9. Discussion of excessive street crowns at downtown intersections

The Commission clarified with staff that the City does not have a formal policy concerning maximum running slopes for crosswalks for street resurfacing projects and that further research is necessary to determine applicable ADA standards. Commissioner Kaeding made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lichtenberg, for the Commission to recommend to the City Council the following: 1) the City should adopt a policy to reduce street crown slopes to acceptable levels when street resurfacing projects are planned and when new streets are constructed; 2) develop a transition plan that sets priorities to alleviate street crown slopes at the most critical intersections; 3) set a timeline that the City accomplish this by October 2008.

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During discussion of the motion it was suggested that, 1) staff should develop a policy first and bring it back to the DAC; 2) the DAC did not want to back the Council into a corner at this point; 3) this effort should be more collaborative; 4) given the significant costs of retrofitting an intersection, these needs should be balanced against other access needs in the City. Commissioner Kaeding accepted an amendment to his motion to have Commissioner Emeritus Vidt draft a letter to DOT recommending that they work with the DAC to develop a street crown policy. The letter should be prepared in time to send out with the agenda packet for April DAC meeting. The motion as amended was approved unanimously.

10. Standing Commission Items

a. Emergency/Disaster Planning for Persons with Disabilities

Commissioner Salazar informed the DAC the Volunteer Center was conducting a training on March 25, 2008 on how to work with spontaneous volunteers during and emergency. It was noted that in the past, people with disabilities had been turned down when they have offered to volunteer. The DAC could observe this situation and try to provide input to help better utilize people with disabilities as volunteers.

The annual CADRE Planning for Vulnerable Population disaster preparedness conference is scheduled for April 30, 2008.

b. Therapeutic Services – Strategic Plan, Services for Persons with Disabilities

Mr. Morrow reported that the Advisory Board has requested that the member of the DAC join the Advisory Board. They meet the first Thursday every other month. The Advisory Board is planning to host a disability awareness event and invites everyone to participate. They believe there is a need to raise awareness about the needs of people with disabilities especially because the City continues to struggle with its budget.

c. VTA and Paratransit Service Issues

Mr. Morrow reported that he will be the new Chair of the VTA Committee for Transit Accessibility and that Commissioner Eljas is the Vice-Chair. Their major goal will be to protect paratransit funding. They will be looking into the issue of the change in paratransit service to the Veterans Administration hospital in Menlo Park.

d. Envision San José 2040

Further discussion of this topic will be considered as part of the DAC Workplan discussion.

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e. DAC Workplan

Discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

11. ADA Coordinator Report

Discussion of induction loop assistive listening systems was deferred to the next meeting.

12. Announcements

No additional announcements

13. Agenda Development

The April meeting will be reserved for discussion of the DAC Workplan and preparation for the Annual Roundtable meeting in May.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.